

housing area into an operating position outside of said housing area, wherein said implement has:

- (1) a housing case with oppositely lying side walls having side faces extending substantially parallel and spaced apart from each other, and a slim face extending between said side walls; and
- (2) at least one lighting means arranged on the slim face of said housing case and emitting a beam outwardly from said housing body and at an angle to a plane oriented perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said pocket tool; and
- (d) an electronic circuit for said lighting means;
- (e) at least one energy storage device;
- (f) a switch mechanism, said energy storage and said switch mechanism are electrically connected to said lighting means by line connections and arranged separately from said implement and integrated into said housing body or disposed in one of said cover plates.

REMARKS

Independent Claim 1

New claim 1 is directed to a displaceable implement for a pocket tool and an operating element of a switch mechanism which is connected to a strip-shaped retaining arm within a housing case of the implement.

US Patent No. 5,916,277 A to Dallas discloses a multi-function tool including a caddy, a cover, a modular primary implement, and a plurality of secondary implements. The cover including a light source is disposed about an end thereof which may provide light to an area on which a secondary implement is applied. Since the cover is fully detachable from the caddy, the cover may also be used as a separate flash light. A button is mounted at a broadside outside the cover above the battery and provides a momentary switch action when depressed, thereby activating the light source. However, Dallas

discloses neither an implement with an operating element provided on a slim face nor a strip-shaped retaining arm.

US Patent No. 6,341,423 to Taggart et al. discloses a multi-purpose tool which has a first handle and a second handle to which a variety of tools may be coupled. One of the tools is flash light which may be pivotably mounted to the handle. The flash light includes conventional elements such as a bulb, a reflector, a switch and a battery providing sufficient power to provide the desired degree of illumination for potential uses of multi-purpose tool. But Taggart fails to teach a switch mechanism and a strip-shaped retaining arm.

US Patent No. 5,967,641 to Sung et al. discloses a tool box comprising a cover mounted to a base which receives a receiving member, an extension rod, a collapsible member and a light means therein which is actuated by a switch member disposed to the box. The switch member is slidably disposed to a first side of the base and has a protrusion formed thereto which slidably presses a first end of a second conducting plate to separate a second end of a first conducting plate. Nevertheless, Sung et al. does not disclose a lighting means within an implement, which is displaceable out of a stowed position into an operating position.

US Patent No. 5,626,414 A to Chen discloses a folding knife with a laser indicator means. A springy conductive plate is disposed in a recess of a supporting plate to extend along an inner wall thereof. A bent end of the conductive plate is mounted to an inner end of the recess by retaining means to contact with the series of cells. Chen does not disclose a strip-shaped retaining arm.

US 2004/0016058 A1 to Gardner relates to a modular multi-purpose equipment comprising a combination of tools, electronic and/or mechanical devices and other accessories. Located in a lower portion of a front face of the equipment is a flash light which preferably comprises a LED and a button for actuating the LED. The flash light preferably includes a rubberized button that, when depressed, activates the LED or other

light emitting device. Gardiner does not disclose a displaceable retaining arm which is connected to an operating element by means of a shaft.

US Patent No. 6,142,769 A to Walker describes a multi-purpose tool comprising among other elements, a flash light. The flash light is disposed within the forward end of the body portion and has an activation switch disposed within one of the side faces of the body portion. Walker describes neither a strip-shaped retaining arm nor a displaceable implement with a lighting means.

US Patent No. 5,313,371 A to McIntosh discloses a multi-functional pocket knife/light comprising a light chamber which is generally cylindrical and houses at least one or more miniature dry cell batteries disposed in a series arrangement and a miniature lamp and/or lamp housing assembly. McIntosh does not disclose a strip-shaped retaining arm within a housing case of a displaceable implement.

US Patent No. 5,653,525 A to Park discloses a pocket tool. Either a lighter or a flash light may be mounted to the pocket tool. The lighter or the flash light is provided with fitting protections which will be fitted into the fitting holes of the coupling projections of the panel. Park neither describes a retaining arm nor an operating element on a slim face of a housing case.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 1 and dependent claims 2 to 30 are new and non-obvious over the above-discussed cited and disclosed prior art. The underlying objective of the present invention is to propose an implement for a pocket tool in which the displaceable implement comprising a lighting means is made to the smallest possible dimensions and facilitates easy handling.

The most relevant prior art citation to the present invention is the US 5,626,414 to Chen.

Chen discloses a folding knife comprising two cases, a blade, and a laser indicating means including a supporting plate pivotably connected to the two cases. The laser indicating means is activated by push button formed on an outer wall of the supporting plate. When the push button is depressed, a conductive plate is pressed against a contact of the laser indicator, electrically connecting the laser diode inside the laser indicator to emit light.

Chen does not disclose a strip-shaped retaining arm connected to an operation element and is moveable between an initial position and an operating position. In contrast to the present invention, Chen describes a button which is flat and elastically deformable and the upper lead of the light source abuts against its inner surface. By pressing the button in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the battery the inner surface moves the upper lead against the upper contact of the battery. In the case of use of the button as a switch, the operation of the switch is not reliable because the upper lead is not securely guided by an additional part of the lighting device. Furthermore, an exact gap between the upper lead and the top contact of the battery must be adjusted. Otherwise, the upper lead cannot come into electrical contact with the top contact of the battery when the gap is too big or the switch cannot be locked when the gap is too small.

These problems are solved by the present invention which provides an additional small retaining arm with a guide mechanism for guiding and moving an electrically conductive switch contact which is connected to the lighting means and the switch contact sits apart from an opposite contact when the retaining arm is in the (non-operating) initial position and sits against, and is electrically connected to, the opposite contact when the retaining arm is in the operating position. Thus the switching function and the implement work reliably and the switch contact can be latched.

US 5,967,641 (Sung et al.) does not describe a retaining arm with an additional mechanism for guiding and moving an electrically conductive switch contact. Sung et al. only discloses a switch member with a protrusion which slidably presses a second conducting plate to separate from a first conducting plate. Therefore, the second

conducting plate has to be springy and thus made out of a solid material to contact the first conducting plate in operation mode. For this reason a switch member described by Sung et al. is not convenient for a small and compact design required by the invention of the present application.

In addition, none of the other patents cited by the Examiner disclose the unobvious arrangement of the present invention which comprises a strip-shaped retaining arm within a displaceable implement having at least one lighting means arranged on a slim side.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that it was clearly not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the housing case with a strip-shaped retaining arm having a guide mechanism for guiding and moving an electric conductive switch contact and the operating element is connected by means of a shaft to the retaining arm.

Independent Claim 31

New claim 31 is directed to a pocket tool with a displaceable implement which has a stop nose.

None of the prior art patents cited by the Examiner or disclosed by Applicant discloses a pocket tool wherein a stop nose is arranged on a housing case of a displaceable implement. It is therefore submitted that claim 31 is new and unobvious. The advantage of the arrangement described in claim 31 is, that the stowed position of the implement is exactly defined. Further no additional bosses mounted on the housing body – as described by Chen – are required to define the stop position.

Independent Claim 33

New claim 33 is directed to a pocket tool, wherein a housing body has a control block and an implement has a positioning element, which is slidably arranged over the control block.

None of the cited and disclosed prior art patents shows a pocket tool wherein the housing body comprises a control block projecting out beyond the internal control of said housing case.

It is therefore submitted that claim 33 is new and unobvious. The advantage of the arrangement described in claim 33 is that the lighting means of the implement can be turned on by moving the displaceable implement out from the stowed position into the operating position. Another advantage is that the switch mechanism becomes very simple and therefore the implement can be made to the smallest possible dimensions. This arrangement is preferably used in plate-shaped pocket tools.

Independent claim 36

New proposed claim 36 is directed to a special arrangement of implements in a pocket tool, wherein a second implement is disposed on a slim face of the pocket tool opposite of a first implement, which comprises a lighting means. The pocket tool can be supported on a working surface by means of the other implement as shown in Fig. 10.

None of the cited and disclosed prior art patents describes an implement which is designed to be displaced relative to the housing body and on which the pocket tool can be supported on a working surface.

It is therefore submitted that the arrangement described in claim 36 is new and unobvious.

Clearly the advantage of the described arrangement is that the pocket tool can be disposed on a working surface while the lighting means is turned on, so that the lighting means can provide light to a working area. It is therefore not necessary for a user to hold the lighting means in the hand, so that the user has both hands free for working.

Independent Claim 48

New claim 48 is directed to a pocket tool with an implement as in claim 1. It is new and unobvious for the same reasons advanced above for the novelty and unobviousness of new claim 1 herein.

Independent Claim 49

New claim 49 is directed to a displaceable implement for a pocket tool with a lighting means arranged on a housing case of the implement and at least one of an electronic circuit for the lighting means, arranged separately from the implement, and integrated in the housing body of the pocket tool.

Dallas, Taggart et al., and Chen disclose a displaceable implement with a lighting means but do not describe an electronic circuit and/or an energy storage device and/or at least one power consumer and/or a switch mechanism electrically connected to the lighting means by line connections and arranged separately from the implement.

Sung et al., Gardiner, Walker, and McIntosh describe a lighting means arranged within a housing body but do not disclose an implement displaceable out of a stowed position into an operating position having a lighting means.

Park describes a flashlight (lighting means) removably arranged on a pocket tool but describes neither an electronic circuit for the flashlight nor an energy storage device nor a power consumer nor a switch mechanism electrically connected to the lighting means by line connections and arranged separately from an implement.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 49 is new and unobvious over the prior art. The underlying objective of claim 49 is to propose a displaceable implement for a pocket tool comprising a displaceable implement with a lighting means which is made to the smallest possible dimensions.

Again, the most relevant prior art reference to claim 49 is U.S. Patent No. 5,626,414 to Chen.

Chen describes a displaceable implement with a lighting means but does not disclose an electronic circuit and/or an energy storage device and/or at least one power consumer and/or a switch mechanism electrically connected to the lighting means by line connections and arranged **separately** from the implement. Therefore, the implement cannot be made to the smallest possible dimensions.

In order to provide a displaceable implement made to the smallest dimension, it is necessary to arrange at least some of the above mentioned devices separately from the implement, as described in claim 49.

The multi-purpose equipment described by Gardiner et al. comprises among other things a lighting means which is located on a housing body of the multi-purpose equipment and a preferably removable module which can contain an electronic device. The lighting means is powered by a 3 volt dry cell battery, which is removably secured to a battery housing located in a cavity of the multi-purpose equipment. Gardiner does not describe a displaceable implement with a lighting means connected by line connections and separate from the lighting means.

Not one of the other cited and disclosed prior art patents disclose a pocket tool with a displaceable implement having a lighting means which is electrically connected by line connections to a device externally to the implement.

It is respectfully submitted that it was not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide at least one of an electronic circuit for the lighting means and/or at least one energy storage device and/or at least one power consumer and/or a switch mechanism electrically connected to the lighting means by line connections and arranged separately from the first implement and integrated in the housing body externally thereto or disposed in a cover plate attached to the side wall or in the side wall.

Therefore, even in view of the additional references, claim 49 remains new and unobvious and therefore patentable.

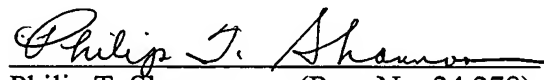
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of the present application is new and non-obvious and comprises allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all of the rejections and objections in the Office Action have been overcome, thereby placing the presently pending claims in condition for allowance. Early notice of the allowance would be greatly appreciated. Moreover, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney of record if it is believed that such would advance the prosecution and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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